

Attorney Docket No.: GCI-0017
Inventors: Wunderink et al.
Serial No.: 09/973,850
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This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of the claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method of identifying a patient at an increased risk of death from community-acquired pneumonia (CAP) associated with the A allele in a TNF α gene of SEO ID NO:1 at the -308 locus in an animal, said method comprising determining the genotype of said TNF α gene in said animal; and identifying increased risk of death from CAP based on said genotype.

Claim 2 (currently amended): A method of treating patients comprising identifying a patient at an increased risk of death from community-acquired pneumonia (CAP) by identifying the A allele in a TNF α gene of SEO ID NO:1 at the -308 locus in such patient; and vaccinating such patients prior to the onset of CAP with pneumococcal and/or influenza vaccination.

Claim 3 (original): A method of screening to identify compounds which stimulate or inhibit the synthesis or action of the TNF α polypeptide having the A allele at the -308 site comprising screening compounds in a TNF α polypeptide, having the A allele at the -308 site, in an assay; and identifying those

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compounds which stimulate TNF as agonists and those compounds which inhibit such TNF as antagonists.

Claim 4 (original): A agonist or antagonist identified by the method of claim 3.

Claim 5 (currently amended): A method of treating patients comprising identifying a patient at an increased risk of death from community-acquired pneumonia (CAP) by identifying the A allele in a TNF α gene of SEQ ID NO:1 at the -308 locus in such patient, and administering such patient an effective amount of an antagonist identified in claim 3 in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.